

**Statement of
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**Before the
Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health
Committee on Resources
United States House of Representatives**

**Concerning
H.R. 3505 – Bend Pine Nursery Administrative Site**

February 12, 2004

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I would like to present the Department's views on H.R. 3505, a bill to amend the Bend Pine Nursery Land Conveyance Act to specify the recipients and consideration for conveyance of the Bend Pine Nursery, and for other purposes. The Department would like the subcommittee to consider a different alternative to achieve the results of H.R. 3505, and would like to work with the sponsors on a positive solution for all.

H.R. 3505 - the Bend Pine Nursery Administrative Site

H.R. 3505 would amend the Bend Pine Nursery Land Conveyance Act (P.L. 106-526) to require the Secretary to offer to sell 170 acres of the Bend Pine Nursery Administrative Site, on the Deschutes National Forest to the Bend Metro Park and Recreation District in Deschutes County, Oregon for \$3.5 million. Proceeds from this sale would be deposited in the fund established under Public Law 90-171 (16 U.S.C. 484a), commonly known as the Sisk Act. The funds would then be available to the Forest Service for the acquisition, construction, or improvement of administrative and visitor facilities and associated land in connection with the Deschutes National Forest in the Bend community, and the acquisition of lands and interests in lands in Oregon. The Forest Service has been working with the community of Bend, Oregon to implement P.L. 106-526.

H.R. 3505 would also direct the conveyance of 15 acres located in the northwest corner of the Bend Pine Nursery Administrative Site, for no consideration, to the Administrative School District, No. 1, Deschutes County, Oregon, in accordance with section 202 of the Education Land Grant Act (16 U.S. C. 479a).

The Department believes a better approach than what is identified in H.R. 3505 would be for the 170-acres to be re-appraised for recreational purposes. We point out that severing the 15-acre tract for conveyance under the Education Land Grant Act to the Bend-La Pine School District may cause unintended delay, because additional survey work and analysis would be needed. In lieu of this two-conveyance process, we suggest a single conveyance of the 185-acre tract, which has already been surveyed, to the District, with the requirement that the District then convey the 15-acre tract as envisioned in the legislation.

We will be happy to work with the Subcommittee to develop appropriate language to address this concern. This concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer any questions that you may have.